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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/491,949	01/26/2000	Salim G Kara	45923-P004CP1C1-09908772	9277

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DALLAS OFFICE OF FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
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EXAMINER

BASS, JON M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3639

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Response to Amendment

1. This is in response to the amendment filed on August 17, 2005 for patent letter filed on February 14, 2003. In the amendment, claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claim 7 has been amended in this pending application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicants arguments filed on August 17, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. Applicant argues that a prior art fails to teach the inventive concept because pertaining to a 102 reference, it must teach every element of the claimed invention. The examiner respectfully agrees with this notion stated by the applicant. The applicant further explains that the prior art fails to teach, "substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet". The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant's characteristics of the inventive step for the following reasons. Blok discloses a processor that has an application program, which has capabilities of postage printing, located in Figure 2. This principal element includes a computer interfaced to a postal scale/ meter and a printer located in column 3, lines 46-53. In regard to printing, Blok's system discloses that the "strip is adapted for use with a computer driven printer capable of printing postage indicium and other related data, {abstract}. Blok further discloses in the abstract that a postage meter is provided for preparing mailing labels. It is noted that a postage meter has the responsibility to print postage on a sheet. Therefore the rejections

remain due the rejections stated above and due to the Office Action. In addition all, dependent claims are subject to the same rejection due to the reasons stated above.

4. The applicant argues that the prior art fails to teach “a date by which an item bearing said postage meter stamp must be posted”. The examiner respectfully disagrees with generalization due to the reason stated above and the reason set forth in the Office Action. With regard to claim [3] three and [4] four, Blok discloses, in column 4 lines 58- column 5, line5, that the field of labels is unitary segment containing data relating to the item to be mailed, which is separated. He further mentions that the field include postal class, instruction, address label, postage indicium label, which has the date and state from which the mail item is mailed.
5. With regard to claims 9 and 10, the applicant argues that “a unique identification of postage storage, where the postage device is a serial number”. In Figure 3A element 319, 321 and 317, Blok discloses a bar-code, which is widely used as a unique identifier because it hold all related information, such as destination, recipient, and locations. One skilled in the art at the time of the invention would recognize that bar-code can be used in place of a serial number because it has the functionality of a postage metering device, as known as the serial number.
6. For all the reasons stated above and in the Office Action, the rejection that were made, remain because they were never overcame by the applicants characterization of the

pending invention. Blok's invention closely relates to the pending application for all the stated reasons and because it teaches and anticipates the notion of the pending invention.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 3) The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- 4) Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In Claim 7, line 2, the recitation of "said postage storage device" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- 5) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

6) Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Block (US 6,010,156).

As for Claim 1, Block discloses a system comprising:

a general purpose processor based system (202) having a postage printing application program (see Fig. 2);

a general purpose printer (206) coupled to the general purpose computer (col. 4, lines 42-57; see Fig. 2);

a sheet (see Figs. 1, 3A) having a plurality of transfer sections (107) thereon, wherein the postage printing application controls the computer and the printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on the sheet (Inherently, the sheet is continuously fed into the printer to enable the printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps upon the multiple requests from the computer. See col. 3, lines 27-45 for the various printing format for user's interest).

As for Claim 2, Block further discloses the system, wherein a first postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamp is printed on a first transfer section of the plurality of transfer

sections and a second postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamp is printed on a second transfer section of the plurality of transfer sections (see Fig. 1).

As for Claim 3, Block further discloses the system, wherein at least one of the postage meter stamps includes a date by which an item bearing the postage meter stamp must be posted (see col. 4, line 58 – col. 5, line 5).

As for Claim 4, Block further discloses the system, wherein at least one of the postage meter stamps includes a location from which an item bearing the postage meter stamp is to be posted (see Id.).

As for Claim 5, Block further discloses the system, wherein at least one of the stamps includes a sender's ZIP code (see Fig. 3A).

As for Claim 6, Block further discloses the system, wherein at least one of the stamps includes a recipient ZIP code (see Id.).

As for Claim 8, Block further discloses the system including:

a postage storage device coupled to the general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein, wherein the computer retrieves an amount of postage from the storage device (see col. 4, lines 31-42).

As for Claim 9, Block further discloses the system, wherein at least one of the stamps includes a unique identification of the postage storage device (see Fig. 3A and col. 4, line 58- col. 5, line 5).

As for Claim 10, Block further discloses the system, wherein the unique ID of the postage storage device is a serial number (see Fig. 3A).

As for Claim 17, Block further discloses the system, wherein each postage meter stamp includes a graphical security interface (see the barcode in Fig. 3A).

As for Claim 18, Block further discloses the system, wherein the GSI is a 2-D barcode (see Id.).

As for Claim 19, Block further discloses the system, wherein at least one of the stamps is printed independent of the creation of a mail piece to be posted using the at least one postage meter stamp (see Figs. 1-3A, 4).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 6,327,042 is cited to show a mail processing system comprising: a simple word processor system constituted by a monitor, a keyboard, a central unit, and a printer and fold-inserter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon Bass whose telephone number is 571-272-6903. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6807. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm Monday through Friday**. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see [http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-271-9197 (toll free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

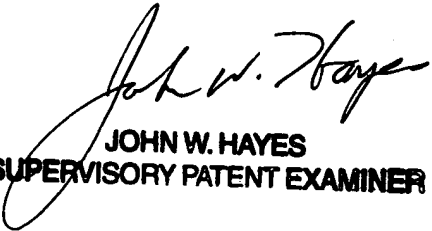
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JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

